

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 310330Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9811
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 7059

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, EFIN, AF
SUBJ: TARAHI TRIES TO BOOST THE MORALE OF PARTY OFFICIALS

1. SUMMARY: AN ADDRESS BY NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAHI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (PDPA), TO THE SECRETARIES OF THE PARTY'S CAPITAL AND PROVINCIAL DISTRICT COMMITTEES INCLUDED LENGTHY REMARKS ON THE IDEOLOGY OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE, AND ON THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE AFGHAN AND THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MOVEMENTS. HOWEVER, TARAHI ALSO DELIVERED EXHORTATIONS REGARDING ACTIONS THE PARTY SECRETARIES SHOULD TAKE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE REVOLUTION. MOST OF HIS LATTER REMARKS APPEARED DESIGNED TO BUCK UP THE MORALE OF THE PARTY'S KEY CADRE, AND THEREBY COULD REFLECT A GENUINE CONCERN ON TARAHI'S PART THAT THE REGIME, IN FACT, DOES FACE REAL OPPOSITION THREATS FROM WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE COUNTRY. END SUMMARY

2. TARAHI OPENED HIS ADDRESS BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THIS SESSION WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS FIRST MEETING WITH SECRETARIES OF THE PDPA DISTRICT COMMITTEES OF THE CAPITAL AND THE PROVINCES, BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE HIS LAST. HE WENT ON TO PRAISE THE PARTY AND ITS MEMBERS FOR MAKING THE APRIL REVOLUTION POSSIBLE, AND ADDED THAT THE PDPA'S SUCCESS WAS BASED ON ORGANIZATION OF THE "PROGRESSIVE AND ADVANCED ELEMENTS", AND ON THE "EPOCH-MAKING IDEOLOGY OF THE WORKING CLASS". TARAHI POINTED OUT FURTHER THAT "OUR REVOLUTION, WHICH IS PART OF THE

WORLD REVOLUTION OF WORKERS, INTENDS TO CARRY OUT THE CLASS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EXPLOITING CLASSES." HE ADDED THAT "FOR THIS REASON", THE REGIME'S INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FRIENDS AND ENEMIES ARE IDENTICAL WITH THE FRIENDS AND ENEMIES OF THE WORKERS' REVOLUTION AROUND THE WORLD. AMONG FURTHER COMMENTARY ON THE IDENTITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN AFGHAN AND OTHER "TOILERS OF THE WORLD", TARAKI SAID ENIGMATICALLY THAT "WE LEARNED FROM A GREAT TEACHER OF THE WORLD WORKERS" THAT THE FORMATION OF A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY WAS ESSENTIAL FOR CHANGING THE AFGHAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT (TARAKI REMAINED HIM ON WHO THIS GREAT TEACHER WAS).

3. TARAKI UNDERSCORED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AFGHAN "EXPLOITING CLASS AND ITS INTERNATIONAL PATRONS" WOULD NOT GIVE UP EASILY, AND THAT IT IS EVEN NOW ATTEMPTING TO "TURN BACK THE CLOCK OF HISTORY". ACCORDING TO TARAKI, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE REVOLUTION THESE REACTIONARIES BELIEVED THAT, LIKE THE DAOUD REGIME, THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT "WOULD RAISE THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR SOME DAYS", BUT, AFTER RECEIVING OFFICIAL RECOGNITION, THE REGIME WOULD EVENTUALLY BETRAY THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS, AND WOULD "THROW ITSELF INTO THE ARMS OF IMPERIALISM FOR THE SAKE OF A FEW DOLLARS AND VESTED INTERESTS." THEREFORE, AT THE BEGINNING, TARAKI CONTINUED, THE REACTIONARIES DID NOT UNDERTAKE INTENSIVE SUBSERSIVE CAMPAIGNS, BUT THEY ARE NOW MUCH MORE ACTIVE AFTER HAVING SEEN HOW THE "NEW IDEOLOGY AND THE FORCE OF HISTORY" WOULD WORK FOR THE PEOPLE.

4. TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO THE REACTIONARY MENACE, TARAKI
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INSISTED THAT THE REGIME IS "FIGHTING ON SEVERAL FRONTS" AGAINST "DOMESTIC EXPLOITATION AND OMINOUS EXTERNAL PLOTS", BUT THAT THE PDPA WOULD PREVAIL BECAUSE THE "RED BANNER" OF THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE HAS BEEN RAISED BY THE PARTY. TARAKI OFFERED SOME GUIDANCE ON WHAT THE PARTY SECRETARIES SHOULD DO TO ENSURE THE REVOLUTION'S SUCCESS, AND EXHORTED THEM TO: "NOT BE FRIGHTENED BY THE ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE" BECAUSE THE FORCES OF HISTORY ARE ON THE PARTY'S SIDE; "OBSERVE STRICT PARTY DISCIPLINE AND ORDER;" CAMPAIGN RELENTLESSLY AGAINST PESSIMISM AND DISAPPOINTMENT, WHICH ARE FERTILE BREEDING GROUNDS FOR REACTION AND DESPOTISM; CLOSE RANKS AND CARRY OUT EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENTS UNQUESTIONINGLY; MOVE FIRMLY AGAINST ALL RESISTANCE; SPREAD THE "WORKING CLASS IDEOLOGY" THROUGHOUT THE SOCIETY; AND, LAUNCH A "POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL STRUGGLE" BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE.

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5. FOLLOWING THESE EXHORTATIONS, TARAKI LAUNCHED A FEW BARBS AT THE PREVIOUS REGIME FOR HAVING LEFT AN ALLEGED NATIONAL DEBT OF 95 BILLION AFGHANIS (APPROX 2.4 BILLION DOLLARS) WHICH IS OWED TO UNNAMED FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AND ON WHICH THE AFGHAN GOVT MUST PAY ABOUT 2.5 MILLION AFGHANIS ANNUALLY (ABOUT 75,000 DOLLARS) IN INTEREST. (COMMENT: ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT IMF FIGURES, THE FOREIGN DISBURSED DEBT OF AFGHANISTAN AMOUNTS TO ABOUT \$950 MILLION AND DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS TO ABOUT \$40 MILLION PER YEAR. COUNTING BOTH DISBURSED AND UNDISBURSED DEBTS, AFGHANISTAN'S TOTAL DEBT IS ABOUT \$1.5 BILLION, STILL CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THE \$2.4 BILLION TARAKI CITED. TARAKI FAILED TO MENTION THAT MOST WESTERN ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN IN THE FORM OF GRANTS, WHEREAS AFGHANISTAN'S "GREAT NORTHERN NEIGHBOR" HAS PREFERRED TO EXTEND LOW-INTEREST LOANS OVER THE YEARS, AND ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE \$1.5 BILLION AFGHAN DEBT IS OWED TO MOSCOW. END COMMENT)

6. TARAKI CLOSED WITH THE PROMISE THAT A PDPA OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER WOULD BE PUBLISHED SOON, AND HE REPEATED THE REGIME'S POSITION
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THAT IT RESPECTS THE PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM, AND THAT IT "HAS NEVER DONE ANYTHING WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN INSULT TO RELIGION."

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MUCH OF TARAKI'S ADDRESS IS STANDARD BOILER-PLATE, HIS STRESS ON THE IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLE OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE, ESPECIALLY HIS LINKING OF THE WORKERS MOVEMENT HERE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL "HISTORICAL PROCESS", REVEALS A BIT MORE CLEARLY

TARAKI'S APPARENT IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTIONS. LIKEWISE, HIS STIFF UPPER LIP APPROACH TO THE PDPA SECRETARIES SUGGESTS A REAL CONCERN ON TARAKI'S PART THAT THE REGIME MAY, IN FACT, FACE CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION THREATS WITHIN THE COUNTRY. AT THE MOMENT, THE PDPA CADRE, WHOSE ACTUAL SIZE REMAINS UNCLEAR, AND THE RANK AND FILE MILITARY, REMAIN THE TWO PRINCIPAL (SOME OBSERVERS SAY ONLY) AFGHAN PILLARS UNDERPINNING THIS REGIME. WHETHER TARAKI'S SESSION, IN FACT, REASSURED THIS GROUP OF PDPA SECRETARIES IS IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE, OF COURSE. BUT, IN OUR VIEW, THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S REMARKS, AND THE FACT THAT HE FELT COMPELLED TO TRY TO BUCK UP THE MORALE (AND PERHAPS COURAGE) OF THIS GROUP OF KEY PDPA OFFICIALS, COULD INDICATE THAT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP IS INDEED FIGHTING ON SEVERAL FRONTS AS IT TRIES TO GET ITS DOMESTIC HOUSE IN ORDER.

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